

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Speaker, members of the body...

SENATOR LABEDZ: The call is raised.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...this is a serious amendment. As, again, as I indicated, I didn't try to do the old, purposely try to do the bait and switch trick by saying, if you didn't like the 100 million, here's one that is only 3.8 million, a cheapie sort of thing. I realize adding this sum of money back to the state aid to education budget is a pretty difficult vote, but I think it is one that is necessary and important. You have an explanation on your desk basically what the amendment would do, basically does a couple of things. First of all, the amendment on the desk, it calls this a five point some million dollar increase. That is somewhat inaccurate because at least for what my intent is, there is a \$1,200,000 appropriation in the trailer bill to restore a portion of previous state aid to education cuts. What I am suggesting we do is we lump all of our state aid to education appropriation together in one part of the budget, we treat it as part of the mainline budget bill and in addition to that we restore the \$3.8 million dollar cut that was made in state aid to education during the special session. We have already, last year, made a...during the special session, we made a, for a six-month term, we made a \$1.9 million cut in state aid to education. This budget proposes an annualization of that cut which will result in a full cut of \$3.8 million brought about by a cut made in the special session last year. It is my recommendation that we, the Legislature, at this particular point add that \$3.8 million back into the budget along with the money that is in the trailer bill. If this amendment is successful I will follow with an amendment to the trailer bill to cut that money out of the trailer bill so it won't be contained within the trailer bill so that we restore state aid to education funding back to the level where it was in '85-86. Why should we do this? If you look at the second column on your sheet, you will see one very good reason as to why we should do this. Although the figures are not available at this time, as far as '86-87, '87-88, property tax asking for supporting education, you will notice since '82-83 through '85-86 there has been a dramatic, a dramatic increase in the amount of property tax dollars that have been asked of local property taxpayers to support education. Well, we down here in the Legislature have been getting headlines for cutting the budget, holding the line on state taxes, going back, running for